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Determined Congressional Opposition Might Cause President To Face External Facts

Pentagon, CIA Have Eclipsed The State Department

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(From The Nation)

McGeorge Bundy, the President's principal adviser on national security affairs, spoke to the Harvard chapter of Phi Beta Kappa last June on the four basic elements this nation must consider in its relations with the rest of the world.

They were, in his view: U.S. military power as the key to peace; limited use of the United Nations; foreign aid; and the threat of communism. Mr. Bundy's list is an accurate summary of what the Administration sees as the true situation, with military power in first place.

Conspicuously absent from his list of realities are the nationalism, anti-colonialism and social revolution which are convulsing Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the manifestations of which take up a lot of Mr. Bundy's time in Washington and his field trips as well.

Of course, these factors do appear in Bundy's list—they are part of his definition of the threat of communism which we must oppose with military means, with economic aid and, when it suits our convenience, with limited use of the United Nations. So in the end Bundy's view of reality is as oversimplified and distorted as McNamara's. He too has no understanding of men and ideas, and prefers to move in the more manageable world of military power, economics and empty oratory before the United Nations.

Finally, the President himself has indicated in his many public statements on Vietnam and Santo Domingo that he has adopted the view of reality that sees only a vast Communist conspiracy and armed aggression that must be halted by superior military power, or bought off by vague promises of economic aid.

His actions and his statements betray an ignorance of how other countries feel. President of a country convulsed by racial troubles, he can see no harm in sending white Belgian paratroopers into Stanleyville and supporting white South African mercenaries in the Congo.

He can order Marines to Santo Domingo, without even notifying the OAS of his intentions, when Marines are the very symbol of U.S. interference in the affairs of the Caribbean republics.

He can insist on the continued military occupation and partition of Vietnam, under a puppet government lacking any authority among its own people and held in power only by American power, and then go solemnly before the UN and ask that the northern part of that country, which he has placed under ceaseless air attack, be pressured into ceasing its aggression against its neighbor.

These actions bespeak a poor sense of judgment in the White House, a loss of the sense of reality, a grasping at military straws, while the great waves of events beat over the heads of bewildered advisers and planners.

The United States Government has always said that the danger posed by Communist Russia and China flows from three sources: their aggressive, messianic pretensions toward the rest of the world; their highly developed military machines; and their ignorance of the true state of affairs outside their own borders, especially of their adversaries' willingness to fight.

Balance Shaken

Yet even in the most trying days of Stalin we could count on the political prudence of the Soviet leaders and on their strict control over the Red army. But now in our own government, the boundary between responsible political judgment and rash military action has broken down.

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